

Connections

December 2011

Director Notes Accomplishments, Calls Bold Actions Necessary

by DeAnne Rickabaugh / photos by Cathy Morrison

MoDOT accomplished several major goals during the past year, but left half of all needed projects on the drawing board because of a lack of funds.

Director Kevin Keith told the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight on Nov. 16 that Missouri highways are in better shape – 86 percent of major roads are in good condition. In addition, traffic fatalities dropped 35 percent since 2005 -- the lowest they have been since 1949.

“Of all MoDOT’s accomplishments, I’m most proud of our commitment to our customers,” said Keith. “When surveyed, 83 percent of Missourians report they are satisfied with MoDOT and 90 percent trust us to keep our commitments. That tells me we’re on the right track.”

Projects continue to be finished on time and under budget. The 473 projects completed in fiscal year 2011, including improvements of several major routes, came in 15.4 percent less than the project



MoDOT was recognized for having the most innovative project in the nation -- the diverging diamond interchange in Springfield.

Cathy Morrison



The kcICON project added a signature cable-stay bridge to the Kansas City skyline.

Cathy Morrison

estimate, saving \$185 million to be used on other highway and bridge needs.

MoDOT was recognized for having the most innovative project in the nation – the diverging diamond interchange in Springfield. Since its completion, several similar interchanges have been built around the state, most recently at Interstate 435 and Front Street in the Kansas City area. Kansas City also saw the completion of the kcICON project which

added a signature cable-stay bridge to the city skyline and was named Engineering News Record Midwest’s 2011 Best Project, among other awards.

“Those are great successes, but we’re not finished. Unfortunately, we’re literally leaving half of the projects Missouri needs on the drawing board because we don’t have the money to move the plans forward, address safety and congestion and create jobs,” Keith said. “Our current construction and maintenance budget is \$600 million for the entire state. That is half of what it averaged for the last five years.”

Recognizing that many families and organizations face similar financial concerns,

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Overtime Policy Changes in Time for Winter Weather

MoDOT’s most valuable resource is its employees, and having employees readily available for emergencies or weather-related events is critical to being able to take care of the system and deliver great customer service.

Some revisions took effect Nov. 1 to Personnel Policy 3000, “Working Hours and Overtime” that will benefit employees as winter weather kicks in.

Employees who are required to work due to emergency or winter operations on their regularly scheduled day off within the work week (normally weekends or holidays) will be allowed to record the time as additional hours and earn overtime pay. This is similar to how overtime was handled last year when employees needed to work on holidays for winter-related events.

The changes do not apply to planned work, but instead focus on handling emergencies and other weather-related events.

Some districts have used a rotational call-out process for winter operations. This is a

best practice that can be applied statewide.

Additionally, divisions and districts may send non-emergency employees home before they have worked 40 hours in the event they might have to accrue more hours later in the week. This allows work units to stagger flex days to ensure some level of coverage for the entire week.

“These changes strike a great balance between the department’s need to manage costs during winter operations and finding a way to better reward employees when storms or other emergencies disrupt their lives outside of MoDOT,” said Human Resources Director Micki Knudsen. “We have already received feedback that employees are very pleased with the changes.”

An Overtime Administration Guide provides additional guidance regarding the application of this policy. To view the policy and the Overtime Administration Guide, visit the HR Personnel Policy Manual at http://hr.modot.mo.gov/index.php/Main_Page.

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Quite Frankly

I've had the opportunity to get out and meet with many of you over the last couple of months, and you've hit me with some good questions. My answers are posted on the Intranet for all employees to see what was asked across the state.



With the holiday season in full swing, I hope you will remember to keep safety in mind. Take every precaution in your work to arrive home safe and sound, and make safe driving practices a priority every day.

I know this has been a tough year for you, and I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to our customer needs.

I wish you a happy holiday season and best wishes for a great new year.

Kevin

Missouri Remembers the Human Toll

Missouri honored those impacted by impaired driving by hosting a Remembrance Day at the Missouri State Capitol Nov. 29.

Victims' families and friends, safety groups and state leaders took time to remember the individuals who were taken away from their loved ones because another individual made the irresponsible and criminal decision to drive while impaired. A new national logo and slogan for impaired driving campaigns, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," was also unveiled.

This memorial serves as an opportunity to remind Missourians to plan ahead during the holidays by driving sober, serving as or designating a sober driver or calling a taxi or other safe ride.



Impaired driving contributes to nearly 30 percent of all Missouri traffic fatalities. In 2010, 217 people were killed and 3,249 were injured in crashes involving an impaired driver.

A Facelift for MoDOT.org

The MoDOT website homepage has a new face.

A redesigned homepage for www.modot.org was launched on Nov. 1. The Customer Relations Division, in collaboration with Information Systems, made the changes to present a new face to the public, streamline the appearance of the page and make things easier to find for our visitors. Clutter is reduced and load time is improved since there are fewer graphics, buttons and banners. The same links are still there, but now they are grouped according to subject and many are text rather than images.

This is the first step in an overall redesign of the entire site.

"These changes are in line with best practices found with other agencies in both the public and private sectors," said Matt Heibert, Customer Relations Manager.

Taking Steps to Help Pedestrians

MoDOT is launching an effort to reduce pedestrian fatalities.

After just nine months in 2011, the number of pedestrian traffic deaths is nearly equal to those experienced in 2010. In fact, during the first quarter of 2011, pedestrian deaths were up 133 percent, compared to the same period in 2010.

Fatal incidents occurred in urban and rural areas, on highways and city streets, during the night and in broad daylight. Those killed included people crossing the road or walking along the side and those who had been ejected from a vehicle in an earlier crash and struck by other traffic.

MoDOT has launched a safety campaign, "Be Safe. Be Seen" to remind pedestrians and motorists to look out for each other.

Part of the problem, safety advocates think, has to do with people already experiencing a bad day by having a flat tire or mechanical problem.

"If I say 'pedestrian', you tend to think of someone out for exercise or kids walking to school," said Leanna Depue, MoDOT Highway Safety director. "But a pedestrian is any person near or on a roadway who is not in a vehicle or on a motorcycle. For example, someone changing a tire on the side of the road is a pedestrian."

The Missouri State Highway Patrol recommends that once drivers pull as far off the road as possible, all occupants remain in the vehicle with seat belts fastened.

"If you have pulled off the roadway onto the shoulder for any kind of emergency or vehicle malfunction and need assistance, call *55 or display a Send Police



Shaun Schmitz

sign," said Captain Tim Hull, Missouri State Highway Patrol. "The trooper will provide assistance and request the assistance of additional emergency services should they be needed."

Copies of the "Send Police" sign are available from any Highway Patrol troop headquarters.

When walking near a highway or street, move in the opposite direction of traffic, so you can see oncoming vehicles.

"I tell people use their senses," said Depue. "Look at the drivers' faces. Are they looking at you? If not, move away from the road. Listen for unusual noises. Using earbuds, headphones or a phone can keep you from hearing a vehicle approach."

It's also important to note that drivers are more likely to expect to see pedestrians at crosswalks and intersections. Even at those locations, pedestrians should keep close watch and prepare to yield to vehicles.

"It's a two-way street," said Brent Hugh, Executive Director of the Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation.

"Drivers need to watch and drive with care around pedestrians, and pedestrians need to look for cars. Even when the pedestrian has the right of way, that right won't stop an oncoming vehicle." Find more pedestrian safety information at www.saveMOLives.com.

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Car Giveaway Urges More Focused Driving

Some lucky person will get an extra Christmas present as part of an awareness campaign to discourage distracted driving across the state.

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety has teamed with up with KRCG-TV and Joe Machens Ford to sponsor “Focus on the Road” which includes a chance to win a new 2012 Ford Focus.

Each day, distracted driving causes nearly 8,000 crashes nationwide. In 2009, a total of 5,474 people were killed in crashes involving distracted drivers in the U.S. Driver distractions include a wide range of activities from putting on makeup to tuning a radio, but the most common is using a cell phone. Recent research showed dialing a phone increases the risk of a crash by as much as six times, and people texting are 23 times more likely to be in a crash.

Tips to Stay Focused on the Road

1. Don't ever text and drive, or go online or read your e-mail while driving.

2. Turn your phone off or switch to silent mode before you get in the car.

3. Set up a special message to tell callers that you are driving or sign-up for a service that offers this.

4. Pull over if you need to make or receive a call.
5. Ask a passenger to make the call for you if you need to reach someone.

6. Know the laws in your state before you get in the car. In Missouri, texting and driving can result in a \$200 fine for drivers under age 22.

7. Review maps and directions before you start to drive. If you need help when you are driving, ask a passenger or pull over to a safe location.
8. Pets can be a distraction in the car. Make sure you secure your pets properly before you start to drive.

9. Kids can also be a distraction. Pull over if you need to address a problem with your children in the car.

10. Focus on driving and avoid any activity that takes your mind and eyes off the road.

Participants enter the contest by visiting the “Focus on the Road MO” fan page on Facebook before midnight on Dec. 14 and pledging to focus on the road while driving. The drawing is open to all licensed Missouri drivers. Employees and family of KRCG-TV, Joe Machens and MoDOT are ineligible. A winner will be announced on Dec. 19,

when finalists will try their key in the new car to find the winner.

“No matter what your age, the most important task when you are behind the wheel is staying focused on driving safely,” said MoDOT Highway Safety Director Leanna Depue. “We’re hoping

the chance of winning a brand new car will raise awareness for staying focused on the road, particularly among young drivers. Some of our younger drivers have never been in a car without a cell phone in hand, and many of them don’t realize the dangers of using it while driving.”

Director Notes Accomplishments

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Keith outlined the department’s goals going forward, including the Bolder Five-Year Direction. By reducing staff by 1,200, closing 131 facilities and disposing of more than 740 pieces of equipment, more than \$500 million will be saved for transportation improvements by 2015.

“We will use our resources to the best of our ability,” said Keith. “We’ll maintain the transportation system in as good of condition as we can for as long as we can. We’ll work to keep travelers and our employees safe, and we’ll continue to provide excellent customer service.”

A copy of the report to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight can be found at www.modot.org/newsandinfo/reports/annualreports.htm.



In the Spotlight!

Missouri State Employees Building a Brighter Tomorrow

Do you know of an employee that deserves recognition?

Put them in the spotlight!

<http://spotlight.mo.gov>

December Service Anniversaries

30 Years		Michael A. Christenson	SW
Patrick A. Neuman	CD	Murray O. Schreiner	SW
Danny G. Cronin	SL	Martin A. Hosiner	SW
25 Years		Jon B. Maloney	CO
Joyce R. Musick	CO	Robert H. Mason	CO
20 Years		Cory S. Reynolds	CO
Ray A. Mercer	KC	5 Years	
Susan D. Scantlin	KC	Glenn W. Kruessel	NW
Chris M. West	KC	Angela I. Downey	NW
Daniel C. Niec	KC	Melody B. Brooks	KC
Charles F. Dolejsi	SL	Kerri L. Lewis	KC
Mary L. Krummel	SL	Duane E. Hartwig	KC
Brian K. Frazier	SE	Dan Duncan	KC
Donna J. Ponder	CO	Michael D. Clevenger	CD
15 Years		Edward T. Pyatt	SL
Michael J. Purdy	NW	Kenneth E. Sisson	SL
Paula A. Gough	NE	Andrew R. Markiewicz	SL
Lance Willman	SL	Joseph E. Henke	SL
Scott W. Zangraft	SL	Steven J. Fisher	SL
Michael K. Harris	SE	Christina L. Stephens	SW
Buck H. Brooks	CO	Jose M. Cervantes	SE
Charlotte M. Edwards	CO	Sarah B. Messmer	SE
Tara L. Brown	CO	Linda J. Ruser	SE
Janelle M. Rackers	CO	Matthew J. Heinlein	SE
Linda S. Parkes	CO	Henry L. McCoy	SE
Donald W. Jones	CO	Buddy L. Ray	SE
10 Years		Ricardo N. Todd	CO
John A. Williams	NE	Willis B. Doss	CO
Ryan J. Libbert	CD	Kurtis J. Brandt	CO

October Retirements

Name	District	Years of Service
Norma Phillips	NW	17
Marion McNear	NW	33
Richard McGuire	NW	18
Earl Keune	NE	12
April Fohey	NE	25
Samuel Vice	NE	30
Rodney Osbourne	NE	26
Steven Hackett	KC	29
Carl Caldwell	KC	12
Michael Thomas	KC	32
Donald Gillispie	CD	20
Robert Ringeisen	CD	26
Lonny Halbert	CD	29
Thomas Howser	CD	36
Barry Bergman	SL	36
Ronald Faulkenberry	SW	32
Richard Carson	SW	17
Timmy Houdyshell	SW	33
Thomas Kraft	SW	24
Jerry Jackson	SE	17
Paul Porter	CO	21
Greg Sunde	CO	26

Joe Lamberson	CO	21
James Sanders	CO	30
Barbara Barnard	CO	17
James Martin	CO	3
Duane Buersmeyer	CO	31
Mark Zacher	CO	26
Theresa Berendzen	CO	32

In Memoriam

Active		
Catherine Bullinger	SW	Oct. 5
Clinton Smithson	SW	Oct. 8
Retirees Retired From:		
Alvin Marcum	CO	Oct. 2
John Frick	Former D6	Oct. 3
Charles S. Hester	Former D10	Oct. 6
James Postlewait	Former D1	Oct. 11
William Wallain	Former D7	Oct. 11
Jerry Keirse	Former D10	Oct. 14
Howard Friese	CO	Oct. 18
June Adams	Former D6	Oct. 18
Linda Miller	Former D10	Oct. 28
Kenneth Ross	Former D9	Oct. 29

Central Office

Expanding Horizons Students Get Eggcited About Math and Science

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

At Missouri University of Science and Technology's annual Expanding Your Horizons Conference, junior high school girls have the opportunity to use their math and science skills in hands-on experiments.

This year, MoDOT's Elizabeth Reed and DeAnne Rickabaugh guided young ladies through Operation Egg Drop. In the workshop, students must consider performance, cost, safety and appearance as they design and create a vehicle to protect a raw egg from a 20-foot fall over a Havener Center balcony.

"The girls chose materials and constructed the vehicles," said Reed. "There was quite a variety. Some chose to emphasize bubble wrap cushioning, some created drag with plastic grocery bag parachutes, some used several methods in a single design."



The egg-citement builds as the drop begins!

The students also drew similarities between the restraint and cushioning systems of cars and elements in the girls' vehicles. Airbags, seat belts and safety cages were replicated on a smaller scale with rubber bands, bubble wrap and foam cups.

As in years past, most of the eggs survived the fall.

"When we started, several girls predicted their project would fail," said Rickabaugh. "But for the most part, their instincts were solid. Even those



Some students used bubble-wrap cushioning, while others used grocery-bag parachutes or combined a variety of methods to protect the eggs.

whose eggs scrambled imagined what they could do to succeed in a second try. They left the exercise more confident in their abilities."

Organizers hope the experience will spark a student to consider a career in science and technology.

Diversity and Inclusion Enriching Us All

On Nov. 3, Central District and Central Office employees attended MoDOT's Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference in Jefferson City.

The keynote speaker was Aline Kultgen, who spoke about her experiences growing up in France in a Jewish family during World War II, while under

German occupation. Breakout sessions dealt with topics on cultural competency, respect, and developing effective working relationships.

This year's conference focused on raising employee awareness that diversity and inclusion enrich us all.



Aline Kultgen was the keynote speaker, sharing her experiences growing up in France during World War II during German occupation.



Central Office and Central Region employees attended a Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference Nov. 3.

The Adventures of Barrel Bob Continue

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

It was a strange morning for the officer who had to write this incident report.

In the wee hours of Oct. 29, MoDOT's work zone protector and spokesbarrel extraordinaire, Barrel Bob, was abducted from his post on Route 54 near the Lake of the Ozarks and forced to car surf atop a PT Cruiser.

The Osage Beach police liberated the 11-foot tall safety mascot from the back bedroom of a lake-area condo.

Bob had sustained damage to his head and the amputation of his lower legs, but skilled technicians in MoDOT's Jefferson City shop performed the plastic surgery necessary to bring Bob back to his glory.

Bob's Facebook fans were shocked by the news, but began teasing him about being taken away by two female barrelnappers. Bob, however, only has eyes for his female counterpart, Barrel Betty.

It wasn't Bob's first abduction. Last year, after several days missing from his job site, his dismembered body was found in a field in western Missouri. Those perpetrators were not identified, but those involved in the Osage Beach incident were identified and may face charges.

When the healing process is complete, Bob will return to his work, alerting drivers to pay attention and drive carefully in work zones. Follow his adventures on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MOBarrelBob.



for more info

Connections Editor
Phone
E-mail

Laura Holloway
573.751.5985
laura.holloway@modot.mo.gov

105 W. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Northwest District

Northwest Crews Honing Winter Skills

by Melissa Black

Being as prepared as possible for the upcoming snow season is the goal behind the winter skills event the MoDOT Northwest District holds each year. The goal is to train and refresh crews before major weather becomes an issue.

The annual training includes testing on using equipment most effectively to make the best use of our material resources and avoid wear and tear on the roads, best uses of different materials and tips on using equipment like mate-



rial spreaders, snow plows and material loaders. With more than 400 employees in Northwest Missouri to train, the department begins the sessions each year in the early fall and continues into early November. Veteran employees with the most experience and training typically train any new or lesser-experienced employees.

With 10,770 miles in Northwest Missouri to plow, crews and equipment have to be ready to go and prepared in order to keep motorists safe during the winter season. MoDOT's Northwest crews also have already checked and made any necessary repairs to the 190 trucks, plows and other available equipment, stockpiled supplies and tested emergency preparedness operations to ensure motorists get where they're going safely when winter weather arrives.

Safe Driver Program Showing Positive Results

by M. Elaine Justus



Encouraging young drivers to be safe and Arrive Alive is the goal of a partnership between the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, Eagle Radio, the St. Joseph Police Department and Cecil Myers Mitsubishi. Licensed high school drivers in St. Joseph with a clean driving record for the entire school year (2011-2012) could be included in a drawing for a free car.

The "I'm a Safe Driver" campaign reaches out to high schools in the St. Joseph metropolitan area by having students register at the beginning of the school year with a pledge to drive responsibly. Once a month, registration

cards are drawn for free prizes such as gift cards and fast food coupons. Only students with a clean driving record can win. All monthly winners are included in the final drawing for a free car, to take place at the end of the school year.

The first year of the program (2002), there were 651 drivers in the target age group involved in crashes in St. Joseph. By 2010, there were 432, a decrease of 34 percent.

Information about the program can be found at www.savemolives/northwest or by contacting Officer Bradley of the St. Joe P.D. (816) 271-4882.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

Melissa Black
816.387.2481
melissa.black@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Celebrating Service!

photos by Holly Hailey



Celebrating 30 Years: (from left) District Engineer Don Wichern pictured with, Clifford Palmer, and David Iddings.



Celebrating 25 Years: (front row from left) Steve Stratton, Kathy Brown, Bill Bledsoe; (back row) Roy Forbes, Larry Parsons, Joe Spiers, Gary Rush, and Don Wichern.



Celebrating 20 Years: (front row from left) Debbie Gregory, Tammy Meeneely, Gina Orozco, John Parmenter; (back row) Roger Halley, Adam Watson, Gene Guinn, Dave Corbin, Jim Kier, Jeff Dehghani, and Don Wichern.



Celebrating 15 Years: (front row from left) Russ O'Daniell, Steve Frank, Shelly Aebersold, Joyce Reynolds, Lana Allen; (back row) Mike Purdy, Jim Bosley, Kenneth Jolliffe, Sam Stockdall, Don Wichern, Tim Waters, Bruce Nichols, Darrin Embree, Kenneth Henley, and Darrell Benedict. Not pictured: Bob Griffin and Curtis Pegelow.



Celebrating 10 Years: (front row from left) Diania Sanders, Richard McClain, Jeff Abplanalp, Joe Criddlebaugh, Danny Willson, Wendell Willis, and Jose Rodriguez; (second row) Carey Beverlin, Rodney Brejnik, Karla Hawk, Bob Crow, Steve Mummert, Robert Poor, Ryan Brobst, Charlie Ramsbottom, Becky Wilson; (third row) Don Wichern, Gregory Page, Correy Miller, Scott Clark, Tim McGaughey, Tim Zona, and Howard Bailey.



Celebrating 5 Years: (front row from left) Jason Baldwin, Rodney Wright, Glenn Kruessel, Ryan Littleton, Brandi Shepler, Lisa Kellison, and Jenny Finch; (second row) Jeff Wilson, Travis Leader, Richard Baumli, Scott Hollon, Dewayne Ireland, Johnnie Kinnison, Angie Downey, and Billy Collins; (third row) Don Wichern, Jason Willis, Shawn Epperson, James Vonburg, Drew Daniels, Sam Vaughn, and Brandon Gillette. Not pictured: Todd Crawford, Colby DeVaul, Larry Finley, Keith Minnis, and Melanie Noel.

Northeast District

Explore Highway 79 ... A Colorful Adventure!

Famously known as a scenic byway, the Great River Road, and selected as Rural Missouri Magazine's Most Scenic Highway in 2010, Highway 79 features a beautiful view of colorful bluffs and the Mississippi River.

Each year, artists in the Highway 79 communities of Clarksville, Louisiana and Hannibal, hold the 50 Miles of Art event, and for the past two years, the "50 Miles" included a detour due to a landslide along Highway 79 near Ashburn. Over the last year, the highway has been realigned. The opening festivities featured artists from along the corridor. Some of these artists were so appreciative of the new highway, they donated pieces of art to

MoDOT, which are now on display at the Northeast District office.

"Even though area residents have been inconvenienced with this closure, they have come together to create a wonderful event signifying the importance of staying connected through our transportation system," said MoDOT Northeast District Engineer Paula Gough.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured a live eagle, a woodcarving, painting, photography and music to embrace the symbolism of art and nature for which Highway 79 is famous.

Missouri Division of Tourism Director Katie Steele-Danner was the keynote speaker for the event that took place at sunset on Oct. 20.



MoDOT Photographer Cathy Morrison captured the beautiful sunset shining on the ceremonial Highway 79 ribbon for the event. (Inset - This 79 wood carving was made by Margie Greenwell of Clarksville and presented to MoDOT. It is now on display in the district office.)

A Glimpse of the Primitive Past

MoDOT archaeologists recently discovered artifacts and evidence of nomadic tribes near the 80-year-old North River Bridge west of Palmyra.

The North River Bridge located on Route 168, is scheduled to be replaced next year and is on the National Register of Historic Places. "Because of this designation, the archeology work was necessary, and it ended up being a very interesting adventure," said MoDOT Historic Preservationist Larry Grantham, who led the excavation.

MoDOT archaeologists conducted excavations believed to be dated between 3000 to 1000 B.C. "Nobody has ever dug a heat treatment pit in Missouri before, and the very first test unit we put in here verified our findings which is significant in itself," Grantham said.

A younger site located across the highway dated between 500 and 850 A.D. where evidence was found of people living in structures much like wigwams. A written report will be filed identifying the location and description of the artifacts, and will be archived and placed in storage.

Construction of the new North River Bridge will begin in the spring of 2012 when the approach right of way will be raised about four feet and will cover the two archaeological sites.



Photo by the Palmyra Spectator

Dropping In On the New U.S. 63

The new U.S. 63 highway, or Alternate 63 as it was known while being constructed, officially opened near Kirksville on Oct. 26, only two days following a unique ribbon-cutting ceremony that featured four parachutists bearing Missouri and American flags.

The project, which began nearly two years before, was a cost share with the City of Kirksville, and they spared no ideas in celebrating the opening. Special U.S. 63 cookies, banners, an inaugural drive with the Car Club of Kirksville, the high school jazz band and parachutists were featured during the hour-long ceremony held near the new highway.

MoDOT Chief Engineer Dave Nichols was the keynote speaker, while Paula Gough emceed the event. Dan Niec, former district engineer, Kevin James, assistant district engineer, Preston Kramer, former resident engineer, and Tammy Wallace, former community



The first parachutist successfully displays the American flag to kick off the U.S. 63 opening ceremony.

relations manager, were all recognized by the Highway 63 Corridor Committee for their roles to help bring the project to Kirksville.

Around the district...

A "dialogue session" was held in Moberly to provide face-to-face communication with Randolph County residents. A visit with the congressional delegation representatives was held immediately prior to the session.



for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail
Route 61 South
P.O. Box 1067
Hannibal, MO 63401

Marisa Brown-Ellison
573.248.2502
marisa.ellison@modot.mo.gov



The Scotland County Route Z bridge near the Iowa state line was opened after being closed 56 days for replacement. The NE District has 23 bridges left on its Safe & Sound Bridge Program next year.



Nearly three dozen employees were recognized at the fall meetings for their roles in the NE District Bridge Sealing Team, which won a 2011 Silver Performance Excellence Award presented by AASHTO. The team sealed 60 bridges in less than 11 hours in several counties without inconveniencing the public.

Kansas City District

Federal Highway Administrator Visits MoDOT Kansas City's Final ARRA Project

by Steve Porter

Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez came to Kansas City Nov. 9 just in time to see the final touches made to a project that will eliminate the tightest traffic bottleneck in the metropolitan area.

Mendez was joined at the news conference by Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller, MoDOT Director Kevin Keith and Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec.

Each transportation official emphasized the need for additional funding and the importance of maintaining our investment in transportation infrastructure. Mendez noted that I-70 projects in the area received \$37 million in funding through ARRA, and added that President Obama would continue to press Congress to pass further infrastructure bills like the recently proposed American Jobs Act. The \$50 billion transportation project

proposal would include \$27 billion to "put people back to work rebuilding America's roads and bridges," Mendez said.

Keith also discussed the condition of I-70 between Kansas City and St. Louis, and the need for additional funding to rebuild and expand the nearly 50-year-old interstate. He answered media questions regarding a proposal to consider changing I-70 to a toll road between St. Louis and Kansas City, and the need for a new federal transportation bill.

Niec announced that the third lane of I-70 in each direction would open more than a week ahead of the Dec. 1 target date, and the lanes reopened before the Thanksgiving Day holiday. The interchange handles about 200,000 vehicles per day.

(Pictured left to right) Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller, District Engineer Dan Niec, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez, Director Kevin Keith and Federal Highway Division Administrator Kevin Ward.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation LaHood, Sen. McCaskill Hold KC Area Meetings



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood (far right) and Sen. Claire McCaskill (not pictured) were in Kansas City Oct. 7 to discuss President Obama's jobs bill with transportation, city and civic leaders throughout the region. A round table discussion was held at the Harry S Truman Library & Museum in Independence, followed by an afternoon gathering with members of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce at Union Station in Kansas City. Pictured from left to right: Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller, Blue Springs Mayor Carson Ross, Independence Mayor Don Reimal, Director Kevin Keith, and LaHood.



Sign Unveiling Honors Two Presidents, One Highway System

by Michele Compton

In a bi-state partnership that extends more than 60 years, MoDOT and KDOT, along with the Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry S Truman Presidential Libraries, unveiled signs designating 165 miles of I-70 between Abilene, Kan., and Independence, Mo., honoring two presidents who did so much for the highway system.

This month, I-70 travelers will traverse the Truman-Eisenhower Presidential Highway from Independence to the state line. Crossing into Kansas, the highway honors President Eisenhower as the Eisenhower-Truman Presidential Highway.

In 2011, the Kansas Legislature and Missouri General Assembly each enacted laws creating the highway designations for I-70. KDOT, MoDOT, and the Eisenhower and Truman Presidential Libraries partnered on the bi-state ceremony on Nov. 18, held at Case Park, overlooking the Missouri River in Kansas City, Mo.

The site for the ceremony itself holds significance in the country's history. Known as Clark Point, it was a stopping point for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which blazed the trail that many roadways follow today.

Guest speakers at the event included President Truman's nephew John Truman and President Eisenhower's granddaughter Mary Eisenhower.

Missouri State Rep. Tom McDonald, who co-sponsored the bill, and Stephen Miller, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner, also spoke to more than 40 attendees.

Two Presidents, One Highway

Even in the midst of war, these Presidents understood the value of a safe, complete interstate system.

As presiding judge, Harry Truman initiated a road system that pulled Jackson County travelers "out of the mud."

Truman was an avid motorist who loved cars, and toured most of the country during his first presidential campaign.

Later, as president, he established the foundations of today's highway safety administration.

President Eisenhower championed the Interstate Highway System in 1956. He believed highways were key to American safety during the Cold War, allowing people to move in large numbers from cities if targeted in war. He also believed Interstate Highway System

in the U.S. would serve as a building block for continued economic growth.

The first miles of the system he supported were constructed on I-70 in St. Charles County, Mo.

"It has been said that Presidents Truman and Eisenhower were divided by party but united in principle," said John Truman, nephew of President Truman. "Today links the legacies of two great American men and their heartland hometowns."

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Speakers at the sign unveiling included: (Pictured left to right) Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation Deb Miller, Mary Eisenhower, John Truman, Missouri State Rep. Tom McDonald, Director of the Truman Presidential Library and Museum Mike Devine, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Stephen Miller, and Director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum Karl Weissenbach.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

Jennifer Benefield
816.607.2153
jennifer.benefield@modot.mo.gov

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Central District

Central District Welcomes New District Engineer

The Central District extends a warm welcome to its newest district engineer, David Silvester, who began work at the district on Nov. 1.



District Engineer Dave Silvester

Silvester, a 20-year veteran of MoDOT, replaces Kirk Juranas, who retired in

October. Most recently, Silvester served as the assistant district engineer for the Northeast District.

A registered professional engineer, Silvester began his career with MoDOT in 1992 as a highway designer in the Kansas City District. Since then, he has worked in a variety of capacities, including project manager, standards engineer and assistant state design engineer.

“David brings a great deal of expertise to the table, and we’re thrilled to have him lead the Central District,” said MoDOT Chief Engineer Dave Nichols. “His energetic personality and knowledge of the department and transportation issues will ensure we continue to provide a high level of customer service to the citizens of central Missouri.”

Silvester holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University. He and his wife, Dianna, reside in Jefferson City.

Shaun Schmitz

Bridge Replacement Projects Discussed at Public Hearing in Laclede County

Over 30 people turned out in Falcon, Mo. in late October to learn more about two bridge replacement projects proposed in Laclede County.

MoDOT held the public hearing on Oct. 20 to discuss plans to replace two bridges along Route 32. The first bridge, over the Gasconade River east of Falcon, would cost approximately \$2.4 million to replace. The second bridge, over the Osage Fork of the Gasconade River, is located west of Route Z and would cost about \$1.8 million.

The work is being planned to improve safety at both locations, and MoDOT proposes to close both bridges at the same time and detour traffic during construction.

“There are other bridge projects scheduled in the county that mean we must plan the construction schedule carefully,” said

Transportation Project Manager Bruce Green. “People we talked to understand the need to replace the bridges, and we wanted their input on the best way to get the work completed.”

Work on the Route 32 bridges could take place during the 2013 construction season.



Senior Highway Designer Mia Peters talks with a Falcon resident about the bridge closures, which are expected to last about four months.

Kristin Gerber

for more info

Customer Relations Manager	Kristin Gerber
Phone	573.522.3375
E-mail	kristin.gerber@modot.mo.gov
1511 Missouri Boulevard	
P.O. Box 718	
Jefferson City, MO 65102	

Around the District



Kristin Gerber

With the Grand Glaize Bridge in the background, contractor crews make progress on the tie-in connections that will link the bridge to the new U.S. 54 Expressway in Camden County. While traffic was scheduled to begin using the new highway in mid-November, the entire expressway will not be complete until the end of the year.



Holly Dentner

Area Engineer Bob Lynch discusses his role in the district during an area team meeting held on Nov. 9 in Camdenton. The team also covered current construction projects, maintenance issues, traffic concerns and planning needs for Camden, Cole, Laclede, Miller, and Morgan counties.



Kristin Gerber

Senior Customer Service Representative Charlett Scott welcomes guests at the Jefferson City meeting for MoDOT's Statewide Rail Plan. Meetings were held around the state in November to gather public input on the future of both freight and passenger rail service in Missouri.



Chris Graham

After less than two months of construction, motorists began using a new bridge on Route 179 in Cole County on Oct. 24. Construction of the bridge is part of a new interchange project that will connect Route 179 to a new St. Mary's Health Center development. The bridge opened almost two weeks ahead of schedule.

St. Louis District

SAFETY: It's the Right Thing To Do! Changing Culture and Behaviors to Create a Safe Environment

by Kara Price

St. Louis recently kicked off a new safety campaign to help employees produce SAFE RESULTS. The objective is to educate, reward and hold employees and supervisors accountable for our safety records. St. Louis is the first district to kick off this type of campaign with the ultimate goal of changing the region's safety culture and achieving high results with safety always as the main priority.

"The reason for this campaign is to increase awareness. Right now our employees are focused more on producing results than they are on safety and our past records show this," said Lisa Lamons, St. Louis' District and Safety Health Manager. "We want them to slow down and do their jobs in a safe manner."

Employees will notice several new things around the district that relate to safety, which include the following:



St. Louis puts a safety message in stencils on the parking lot at Barrett Station's Signing & Striping building, as well as every field facility.

-A district safety team comprised of field representatives from all departments. The team meets monthly to identify safety hazards and discuss best practices.

-A core safety team comprised of the risk management, human resources and maintenance departments. The team meets frequently to focus on safety accountability and ensure that policies are being enforced.

-Management will have safety briefings and more discussion of safety topics.

-A bold move is the new safety pledge which empowers any employee to call a "time-out" to review the safety of any job the employee is asked to perform.

"The focus of this campaign is to balance the scales between safety and results. We want employees to achieve SAFE RESULTS," said Lamons.

St. Louis management is encouraging employees to accomplish SAFE RESULTS through the 2011-2012 Innovations Challenge.

The goal of the challenge is to identify and share the best ideas in the forms of tools, equipment and processes, so that we reach the department's goal of the Bolder Five Year direction. This is an additional opportunity for employees to contribute, and show off their ingenuity. Remember, one of the five key aspects of the Innovations Challenge is safety.

Therefore, employees are urged to put forth their creative and competitive ideas towards developing tools, equipment and processes that help each employee produce SAFE RESULTS.

St. Louis Safety Pledge

Safety begins with me, and I will look out not only for my safety, but also for the safety of my co-workers.

I've been given the authority, without fear of reprimand or retaliation, to immediately STOP any work activity that presents a danger to me, my co-workers or the public.

I will question and correct any situation that is not in compliance with our safety and health policies. I will report any unsafe acts, conditions and work activity that involves violation of the established safety and health policies to a supervisor.

St. Louis Highway Uses New Concrete Additive Breaking Down Smog

by Andrew Gates

MoDOT is testing a new type of roadway – one that absorbs smog and breaks it down using sunlight.

Crews placed a 1,500-foot test strip of concrete roadway, with an additive called titanium dioxide (TiO2) on a three-lane section of new roadway

Concrete placed using this method is as strong as that used on standard concrete pours.

"The concrete placement went as well as we expected," said Jesse Jonas, resident engineer for the project and Southwest area. "The two-lift opera-



Crews smooth the top layer of the smog-eating concrete on Route 141.

for the Route 141 project in West St. Louis County. This additive absorbs smog, breaks it down and releases it as nitrogen and carbon dioxide. The department believes this is the first time this additive has been used on a driving surface. Because of the cost of the additive, crews used a process called two-lift paving to place this section of concrete. In this process, crews placed a thick layer of concrete and then immediately placed a second, thinner layer of concrete with the titanium dioxide on top of that thick layer.

tion went smoothly and the pavement is ready for the testing process when we are able to put traffic on the new roadway next year."

Exploring these types of innovations is important to MoDOT, he continued.

"We have a responsibility to explore ways to ensure that our environment is sustainable for the future. Projects like this help give us the opportunity to test new innovations and help us do business in the future," Jonas said.



Jesse Jonas, southwest resident engineer, is interviewed by West Newsmagazine reporter Jim Erickson.

for more info

Customer Relations
Phone
E-mail

Marie Elliott
314.453.1807
marie.elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

In Memorandum - Roy Riley

Sympathy and prayers are extended to the family of Roy Riley, 86, of Beaufort, Mo., who passed away Nov. 5, 2011. He was a MoDOT employee for 38 years and worked positions in Hannibal, St. Louis and Jefferson City. He retired in 1987 as a general equipment inspector.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred; 2 sons, Donald of Beaufort and Bill of Wentzville; 2 daughters, Anna Ainsworth, of Jefferson City, and Phyllis Pasley, of Maryland Heights.

Southwest District

Branson and Hollister Proud Of Lake Taneycomo Bridges

by Angela Eden & Bob Edwards

The mid-November opening of the historic Lake Taneycomo bridge between Branson and Hollister marked the completion of a nearly two-year long, \$12.2-million project that rehabilitated the historic bridge, built a new companion bridge and built a roundabout on the Hollister side of the lake.

Many residents and local officials from the Branson-Hollister area joined in the festivities at the project's end.

On Nov. 15, the bridge was opened to the public for a "stroll-about" – without automobile traffic – on the restored historic bridge so people could see close up how the "look" of the bridge was preserved. An estimated 700 people took advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and they included many children brought by their parents and grandparents.

The Western Taney County and Branson fire departments parked ladder trucks in the middle of the 1,087-foot long historic bridge and suspended a large American flag high above the deck, adding color and a patriotic feeling to the event.

On Nov. 16, the two-bridge project was dedicated with a brief ribbon-cutting at the historic bridge and a procession of modern-day and historic vehicles with dignitaries and construction workers alike riding across the historic bridge, through the roundabout and across the new bridge.

Landon Streit, superintendent for prime contractor Jensen Construction of Iowa, presented flags flown above each bridge during construction, one to the city of Branson and the other to the city of Hollister.

The historic bridge was opened to traffic 1-1/2 months ahead of schedule. The historic bridge – the longest, oldest (1931) bridge of spandrel arch design in use in Missouri – carries Route 76/Bus. Route 65 traffic.

The new companion bridge was built during 2010. It connects Route 76 in

Hollister and Branson Landing Boulevard in Branson. When the new bridge and roundabout opened in October 2010, the historic bridge was closed for its extensive repairs.

Clinton Resident Engineer Brett Foster, the lead inspector before his transfer, enjoyed the challenge of rehabilitating the historic bridge.

"We worked with the designers and the contractor to use new techniques to maintain the original look of the bridge," Foster said.

Branson, Hollister and Taney County all played a part in the planning and were willing to contribute funds.

However, the new bridge and roundabout were funded by \$7.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The \$4.8-million historic bridge rehabilitation was paid for with MoDOT funds and a congressional earmark (\$427,500) obtained by then-U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt.

Congestion at the lake crossing – at 20,000 cars a day – is expected to diminish while safety will be improved. Each bridge is a two-way bridge.

"It's going to be a great relief to have both bridges in place," District Engineer Becky Baltz said.



Branson Maintenance Crew Leader Tim Smith hands a flier at the historic bridge "stroll-about."



Bob Edwards

SW District at Work

1. Checking the rebar cage for a beam cap on a Safe & Sound bridge on Route 52 at Calhoun is Clinton Senior Construction Inspector Brian Dewey.
2. Clinton Senior Maintenance Worker David Deeds, left, and Signing Maintenance Crew Leader Jeff Caffey, working along Route 7 in Clinton, put up a new stop sign with LED lighting around the edge for improved visibility.
3. Anderson Senior Maintenance Worker Ron Green compacts an asphalt patch on a Route 71 outer road near Anderson.



Lori Marble

Scenes from Lake Taneycomo Community Celebration



Branson Senior Construction Inspector Burt Pitchford



Branson Senior Construction Inspector Mike May



Landon Streit of Jensen Const., Clinton Resident Engineer Brett Foster, Ryan Adkisson of Jensen Const.



Senior Highway Designer Michele Hicks



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for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone
E-mail

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Bob Edwards
417.895.7713
robert.edwards@modot.mo.gov

Southeast District

MoDOT Tests Bridges, Names Winners of the Eighth Annual Bridge Building Competition

Ste. Genevieve, Oak Ridge & Chaffee High Schools Take Top Three

After weeks of work to build the most efficient model bridges, Southeast Missouri high school students put their bridges to the test Nov. 17 at the finale of MoDOT's eighth annual bridge building competition. The competition challenges high school juniors and seniors to design and construct the most efficient model bridge using limited materials -- 15 pieces of balsa wood, thread and glue.

Ste. Genevieve, Oak Ridge and Chaffee High Schools received first, second and third place for best overall performance, respectively. These schools received cash prizes donated by the Chapter 10 Transportation Employees Association of Missouri, as well as a U.S. flag donated by U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson.

In addition, five students were recognized for building the lightest bridges that carried the greatest loads. Winners included:

- 1st - Tommy Williams - Ste. Genevieve
- 2nd - Clayton Bauman - Ste. Genevieve
- 3rd - Kyle Nicholson - Ste. Genevieve
- 4th - Lance Rohde - Oak Ridge
- 5th - David Ditch - Ste. Genevieve

Other awards included the most aesthetic bridge, given to Hunter DeShaney



Nearly 250 bridges were put to the test to find the lightest bridges to carry the greatest loads.

of Clearwater, and the computer-based electronic bridge award given to Logan Giesler of Ste. Genevieve. Prize donations and supply sponsorships were made possible by the following businesses and organizations: U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Chapter 10 Transportation Employees Association of Missouri, Cape West 14 Cine, Three Rivers Community College, Cape Area Engineers Club, Southeast Physics & Engineering Club, Sam's Club, Kirlin's Hallmark of Cape Girardeau, Rhodes Convenience Stores, CiCi's Pizza, Chick Fil'A of Cape Girardeau, Burger King of Cape Girardeau, Popeyes/Drury of Cape Girardeau, Dominos

Pizza, Panera Bread Company, Coca Cola, St. Louis Wacky Warriors Paint-



Senior Highway Designer Anita Clark announces the most aesthetic bridge.

ball Store, St. Louis Rams, Kansas City Royals, Kansas City Chiefs, Southern Illinois Miners, Southeast Missouri State University Bookstore and the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety.

MoDOT also partnered with Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly University of Missouri-Rolla), University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou) and Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, to offer seniors interested in civil engineering up to nearly \$10,000 worth of civil engineering scholarships.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Southeast Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety were on hand during the competition to discuss the importance of buckling up with the Seat Belt Convincer, which simulates how it feels to be in a traffic crash.

To view videos and photos from this year's competition, please visit http://www.modot.org/southeast/talkin_transportation/BridgeCompetition.htm.

MHTC Meets in Poplar Bluff

The monthly meeting of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission was held Nov. 2 at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff.

The Commission is a six-member bipartisan board that governs MoDOT. Members are appointed for a six-year term by the governor and are confirmed by the Missouri Senate.

Director Kevin Keith provided an update on funding and the annual AAS-HTO meeting he attended, the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program, the Bolder Five-Year Direction and his upcoming report to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight.

Public presentations included:

- Delegation representing the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission & Development Association -- Felicity Brady, Executive Director
- Delegation representing the Highway 67 Corporation -- Dr. Tom Lawson, Highway 67 Corporation
- Delegation representing the Tri-State Development Summit -- Tom Oakley, President/CEO of Quincy Newspapers, Inc., Regional Transportation Advocate

As the meeting concluded, the commissioners thanked the city of Poplar Bluff for hosting the meeting and for their hospitality. Additionally, Commission Chair Grace Nichols wanted to extend a message to all MoDOT employees.

"They have done a fantastic job ever since this whole journey began with our reduction in forces and the Bolder Five-Year plan," she said. "The caliber of all MoDOT employees is excellent and we greatly appreciate your efforts, particularly under hardship conditions."

Nichols also commended employees for handling the stress and difficulties in a professional manner.

"Just know that we care about the MoDOT employees and will continue to do that and whatever we can to help," she added.

For more information about the Commission or meeting dates and times, please visit: <http://www.modot.org/about/commission/index.htm>.



Participants in MoDOT's Eighth Annual Bridge Building Competition were also encouraged to pledge not to text and drive.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager
Phone 573.472.6632
E-mail nicole.thieret@modot.mo.gov
2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Connections

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Community Relations
Missouri Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840
www.modot.org
1-888 ASK MODOT

Editor
Laura Holloway

Design Coordinator
Dennis Forbis

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Laura Holloway, editor
573.751.5985
Laura.Holloway@modot.mo.gov

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Striping Leadership Team Receives National Honor

Bridge Sealing Team Also Honored

A MoDOT team received national honors for making sure the state's highways were restriped in time for the busy summer travel months.

The 2011 Silver Performance Excellence Award from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials recognized the efficiencies, cost-cutting measures and positive results MoDOT's Striping Leadership Team achieved.

With consistent team planning throughout 2010, plans were made to restripe 20,000 miles before Memorial Day 2011. Strategies included starting earlier in the year, flexing schedules so crews could run striping machines 60-70 hours a week statewide, and a weekly conference call where districts shared their progress and could request help across district lines. Crews also

overcame significant weather delays by taking advantage of all suitable weather. Striping was completed using three less striping machines and no overtime.

"The teams' positive approach and leadership is impressive," said State Traffic and Highway Safety Engineer Eileen Rackers. "Reaching this goal meant our customers had the most visible roadway features and better driving experiences during a busy travel time."

In addition to this award, a Bridge Sealing Team in the Northeast District received an AASHTO 2011 Silver Performance Award for developing a process improvement increasing efficiency for traffic control when cinder-sealing bridges. Their process resulted in no waiting between bridges, a decreased impact to customers and increased safety.



Cathy Morrison

Missourians Share Opinions for Improving State's Rail System

Gathering opinions to help shape the future of Missouri's rail system was the focus of community leader workshops and public meetings recently conducted by Multimodal Railroad staff in each of MoDOT's seven districts.

The following comments from participants give just a few examples of what staff learned about how important freight and passenger rail service are to Missourians:

- 1) Freight rail benefits Missouri with jobs, fuel efficient transportation of all goods hauled and [it] connects all of Missouri with the rest of the nation.
- 2) [Freight rail] helps get very heavy or awkward freight off the roads, which means less damage to roads and bridges and less danger to auto traffic.

It expands shipping options and encourages industry.

- 3) Rail passenger service provides an economical transportation alternative to those with and without access to cars, helps with tourism, helps to save the environment by reducing pollution, and promotes better land use and development.

These comments and others captured at meetings in October and November have been compiled and will be used to develop a new State Rail Plan. The plan will provide the strategic framework for improving the movement of goods and people in Missouri for the next 20 years.

Multimodal Railroad officials have also met with Amtrak and key freight railroad companies that operate in Mis-

souri to gather additional information for the plan. Statistics such as passenger ridership, miles of track, commodities hauled, tonnage and value of shipments, system size and other operational information will provide an important overview of today's system. MoDOT will use this data to identify current rail assets, rail system conditions and capacity and future project needs in the plan.

"We had great discussions across the state," said MoDOT's Rail Administrator Eric Curtit. "Overall, Missourians expressed that freight and passenger rail service is important to Missouri's economic well being and quality of life."

Communities expressed interest in expanding passenger rail service to areas

like Hannibal, St. Joseph, Springfield and Branson. Business leaders expressed interest in gaining better access to freight rail service as an economical shipping option that would, in turn, enable them to create more jobs and generate more revenue.

Throughout the winter months, the State Rail Plan project team will prepare a draft. It will assess and evaluate the current system, identify and prioritize future programs and projects and guide long-term policies for the future development of Missouri's rail system. The team will return to communities across Missouri in the spring so the public can review and comment on the plan before it is completed and submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration in May 2012.